MOLLY BRENNAN'S QUARTET

PHOTOGRAPHIC

SCRAP BOOK

PRESENTED TO THE MOLLY VARNUM CHAPTER--MARCH 12, 1940.
BY MRS. ALBERT CATHERWOOD--HISTORIAN.

Daughters of the American Revolution

CONSTITUTION HALL • WASHINGTON, D. C.

Daughters of the American Revolution

MEMORIAL CONTINENTAL HALL • WASHINGTON, D. C.

Rowena Hildreth, b., Dracut, 21 Sep. 1814
M. Henry Read, of Lowell, 1833
D., 871 Lake View Ave., Lowell, 27 Apr. 1913

BRIGADIER GENERAL PHILIP READE

RETIRED UNITED STATES ARMY

General J. B. Varnum and Mrs Mollie Varnum.

*** MOLLY VARNUM ***

Molly Varnum born June 4th, 1750, was the daughter of Jacob Butler of Pelham and Mary Eames, his wife. She was married January 26, 1773, to Joseph Bradley Varnum of Dracut, whose after life was an uninterrupted career of public service. He was a captain of militia from Middlesex County during the Revolution, later Major-General of the forces of the Commonwealth, Representative, Senator, and Councillor of the State, Member of the United States Congress, Speaker of the National House of Representatives, and United States Senator from Massachusetts.

MOLLY VARNUM, like other patriotic women during the struggle for independence was devoted to the cause for which her husband fought. Cloth of her own weaving went to equip the Dracut troops, and she toiled early and late, denying herself many comforts, that she might give more freely to the defenders of her country. Wife of on Revolutionary soldier and daughter of another, she is a type of the women of her generation, in unostentatious and self-sacrificing patriotism. They gave their nearest and dearest to the cause of liberty, and patiently endured care, toil, privation, and suspense through painful months and years. d. 4/11, 1833 (82 yrs)

This chapter is named MOLLY VARNUM in recognition of the services of which she is an example, the unrecorded services of the wives and mothers of the American Revolution.

Old North Room, Spalding House
Home of Molly Varnum Chapter D.A.R. Lowell, Mass.

Spalding House
of Molly Varnum Chap[illegible] Bowell, Mass.

Pentucket Hall, Spalding House
Home of [illegible] Varnum Chapter, D.A.R. -- Bowell, Mass.

*** MARKER FOR UNKNOWN SOLDIERS ***

This marker is in the Old Lowell Cemetery. It was placed there by the Molly Varnum Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution in 1931.

*** MEMORIAL TO PASSACONAWAY ***

This Memorial to Passaconaway, Chief of the Pawtucket Indians was placed near the Pawtucket Falls by the Molly Varnum Chapter and presented to the City of Lowell on June 11th, 1935. It was on this spot that Passaconaway accepted christianity under the preaching of John Eliot.

*** VARNUM HOMESTEAD ***

On a lane off Varnum Avenue, formerly a part of the Old Meadow Road, is the old Varnum homestead. Built probably about 1700, it has sheltered seven generations of Varnums, and it stands today in dignified seclusion, a type of the early homes of the prosperous colonists. No transfer by deed has been passed of the Varnum property since the early grant from John Webb to Samuel Varnum in 1664, and the name of Varnum has always been prominently associated with all political, church and social life of Dracut.

*** THE DURKEE HOUSE ***

Crossing the Merrimack River by means of Clark's Ferry to the opposite shore and proceeding along Ferry Road, we come to the old Durkee House. It was built about 1660. Its architecture shows it to be of Colonial times, and the many interesting traditions connected with its history give it an air of romance. From one of its upper rooms, it is said the early colonists resisted an attack of the prowling Mohawks at the time of King Phillip's War, and also from one of its windows the horrified inmates saw the murder of the two Varnum boys by the Indians as they were crossing the Merrimack River in their canoe. The Durkee house was the most pretentious of its time in this location and was always used as a place of rendezvous by the neighboring colonists.

Also in later years as a tavern of good and notable repute, for by its door passed the stages and stately carriages, whose occupants were travelling down from New Hampshire to Boston. Here in 1776 the neighbors came to listen to the sound of the firing of the cannon at Bunker Hill and the old hall, in which doubtless they were gathered, still retains its original features, the smooth hard floor for danging, and the raised benches on which the guests sat, and looked on as the red-cheeked girls and the sturdy farmer boys danced the old country reels.

*** CLARK'S TAVERN ***

As early as 1728, Captain Jonas Clark was the geniel inn-keeper of the tavern, a man of prominence and a descendant of Rev. Thomas Clark of Chelmsford. Captain Clark was succeeded in the tavern by his son Timothy who kept up the old customs and traditions of the house.

This tavern was near Clark's Ferry and was a popular resort for the fashionable and distinguished people of the day. The carriages of Lowell's wealthiest families at the present time cannot be compared in grandeur to the coaches with armorial bearings which rolled up to the hospitable door in the old Colonial days. Among its guests have been LaFayette, Hancock, and scores of other notabilities, and the brilliancy of the dinner parties given within its walls in the days of its early grandeur can hardly be excelled even in the luxury of this generation.

*** THE POW-WOW TREE ***

This tree is still standing on Clark Road, but in early history was but a bridle path to the church and settlement. Under this oak, the Wamesit Indians met for their pow-wows, their peace conferences, and their councils of war. At the time of the Revolution of the colonies the men of this vicinity passed by this tree to Tewksbury Center to join a company which fought in defense of Concord and Lexington. Tradition claims that this pow-wow tree was standing as early as 1700.

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*** THE OLD LIVERMORE HOUSE ***

On the site which St. John's Hospital now occupies and of which it has become a part as a stately structure inthe early days of Lowell, which at different epochs in its history was called the Gedney House, the Old Yellow House and then the LIVERMORE HOUSE.

The house was erected about 1750 by Timothy Brown, the heavy lumber for its construction being obtained by Captain Ford at his sawmill near Pawtucket Falls, but the interior wood work was prepared in England and then shipped to this country.

When Judge Livermore purchased the estate, it consisted of about two hundred acres of land, and the house standing on a high elevation laid out with spacious lawns and avenues, made a truly magnificent home for its dignified owner.

*** THE OLD GARRISON HOUSE ***

This is one of the most important garrison houses and was on the road leading from Pawtucket Falls to the Navy Yard, and known as Riverside Street. It was built about 1674, and the structure was planned to resist the known methods of Indian warfare.

The basement was divided and strengthened by high stone walls as a place of retreat for women and children in case of attack, and the second story projected over the first nearly a foot, in order to furnish an opportunity to shoot through the loop-holes, in case any attempt was made by the savages to set fire to the building.

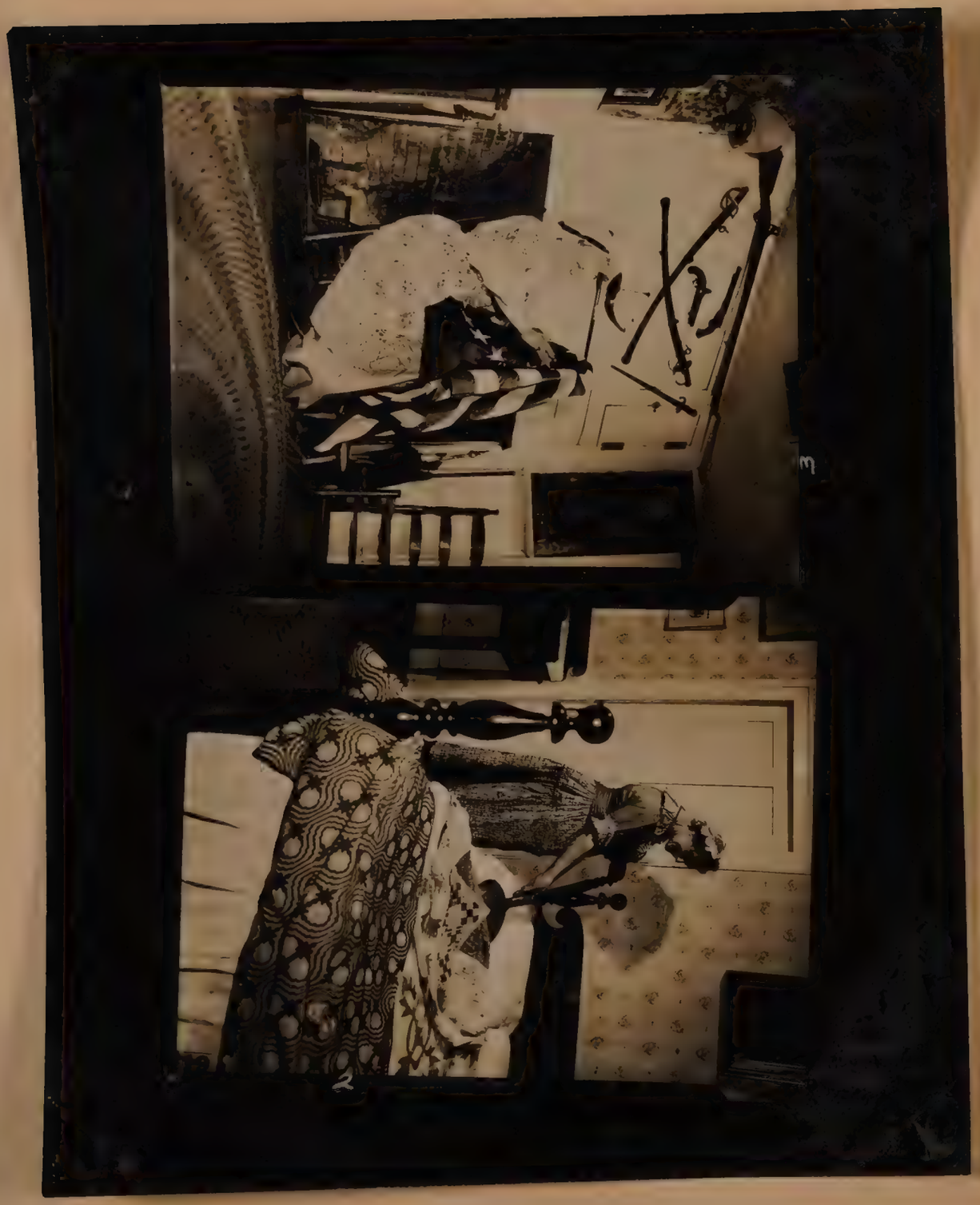
The old house stood until about 1880, a reminder of the bravery of both men and women of the olden times.

*** THE OLD TYNG HOUSE ***

It was in this house that Chief Wannalancet found shelter and a home and a firm friend in Colonel Jonathan Tyng who endeavored to repay some of the kindnesses given by Wannalancet to the English settlers.

In the lonely winter evenings of the last four years of the old chief's life, we may picture Colonel Tyng and Wannalancet sitting by the fireside talking of their early experiences in this almost wilderness. Wannalancet died in this house and was buried in the Old Tyng Cemetery.

This house is situated but a few rods above the entrance to the Country Club on the road from North Chelmsford to Tyngsboro. It was built by Colonel Jonathan Tynng about 1674, and at that time was the most northerly house in the Massachusetts Colony. It was indeed a perfect type of the early colonial mansions and was surrounded by hundreds of acres of land, which, according to early custom was cultivated by slaves, and even today the slave pens in the spacious attics where refractory slaves were confined, may be seen by curious visitors, and the slave bell which summoned the slaves from their labors is still hanging in the tower of one of the out-buildings.



*** HOME OF CAPTAIN ~~HENRY~~ John FORD***

The original home of Captain Ford was moved to the corner of School and Pawtucket Street, across the road from its early resting place.

When the alarm was sounded April 19th, 1775, Captain Ford was at work in the saw mill which was near his house. Hastening to his home for the necessary equipments, he started at once for Chelmsford Centre, to join the company that went from there. Captain Ford also served at Bunker Hill and Ticonderago and marched against Burgoyne.

After the war had closed, Captain Ford resumed business at his saw-mill, furnishing lumber for the building of many notable houses of the day. He also built for himself a much more pretentious residence on the site of his early home; and with no material changes, it has always been occupied by his descendants, among them being the present occupants of the house, Mrs. Mary Earl Wood and Miss Josephine Earl.

In the same spacious grounds and on the site of the old barn belonging to the original estate, is the residence of Mrs. Henry Lambert who is a direct descendant of Captain Ford of the third generation from him.

The name "FORD" is strongly associated in so many ways with the history of our city that it will not soon be forgotten. In the little burying ground opposite Pawtucketville Church is found the grave of Captain John Ford.

*** THE CLARK HOME ***

This house is situated on Clark Road. The old house guarded by sheltering trees, gives promise to withstand the ravages of time for many years to come. In this house Lieutenant Thomas Clark ended his days and now rests from his deeds of valor in the old Clark Burying Ground, but a short distance from the house.

TURDAY, FEBRUARY

PLACES

DRACUT

Roth Resigns as Commander of Legion Post—Hudson to Succeed Him.

Dracut, Feb. 15.

With the resignation of Leo C. Roth as commander of the American Legion, Dracut Post 315, J. E. Alfred Hudson was named head officer at the meeting Thursday night in the town hall. Mr. Roth resigned because of a Legion ruling which bars officials in a municipal government from holding position.

Enthusiasm for a local post of the Legion had increased to such an extent that 42 were present at this meeting making the town hall quarters too small for future gatherings. Cmdr. Hudson stated tonight that at the meeting next Wednesday night, the grange hall would probably be used.

To fill the position vacated by Hudson who was advanced, other officers were moved up in line. The slate of officers now stands: J. Alfred Hudson, commander; George O. Allard, vice commander; Vincent D. O'Leary, junior vice commander; Arthur C. Gunther, financial secretary; Harry Deselle, adjutant; Charles McLaughlin, sergeant of arms; George A. O'Malley, historian; John Eadie, chaplain; Austin M. Darby, Richard Herity, John J. Higgins, Herbert O. Nichols, executive committee.

Plans were made for a public installation of officers after Past Cmdr. George M. Walsh of Lowell Post 87 addressed the gathering.

No competition will arouse the annual meeting of the Dracut Water Supply District unless stickers are used. The ballot will contain only three names: Lewis H. Maddock for commissioner, Clark Chrysler for clerk and Conant W. Udell for auditor. All are running for re-election and have been holding the offices for several years.

Whist was played at a party sponsored by the Men's Brotherhood of the Hillside Congregational church in the Navy Yard, last night. Robert Tr... charge.

Five valuable pri... ed Saturday n... party of the S...

ids

...eeting

LOWELL — At the Spalding house yesterday afternoon, Molly Varnum Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution met for its first meeting of the fall season. It was announced by the regent, Mrs. Dewey S. Darling, that the fashion show and bridge being held this afternoon promises to be a distinct success.

Mrs. Nathan Pulsifer, chaplain, opened the meeting with a spiritual reading, the pledge of allegence, the American's creed, and then the group joined in singing the first verse of "America."

Reports were read by the secretary, Mrs. Raymond Clogston, and the treasurer, Mrs. Lewis Balfe, who reported on the financial standing of the organization. Miss Emily N. Wiggin, corresponding secretary, read to the members, several letters of thanks from various people and clubs.

Mrs. Harold Jewett reported on the state conference held recently at Stockbridge, Mass. Mrs. Charles O. Wilson, veterans relief chairman, made an urgent plea for the members to collect all reading material for the veterans in hospitals. Mrs. Karl Perham, Ellis Island, spoke of the work that is being done by the D. A. R. for the refugees who come into Ellis Island.

Mrs. Darling announced that Red Cross days will be the second and fourth Fridays of each month. They are held at the Spalding house and a hot drink will be provided. Mrs. Guy Pattilo hopes that all who can come will do so and it is important that this work be carried on.

The speaker was Mrs. Mary C. Miller, Townsend, Mass., who spoke on "Hand Hooked Rugs and Their History." She brought with her many beautiful rugs that she and others had hooked. She said, "One personality can be expressed in all kind of handiwork," and she illustrated this by showing the same pattern done by two different persons. Mrs. Miller said that "New England is perhaps the most interested spot in the revival of hook rugs because it was in Bideford, Me., that ...

Whether a proposed state forest of the Huckleberry hill district in the towns of Dracut and Tyngsboro, and lapping into the city of Lowell in far Pawtucketville, should be called the "James A. Morris" state forest, as some time ago suggested in this newspaper, or the "Molly Varnum" state forest, as those who have actively sought to round up an area suitable for such a public reservation have urged, may need to be decided in Boston, when, if, the said commonwealth forest becomes a reality. The original thought of naming some state forest of this county after "Jim" Morris

Dec. 16, 1935

Molly Varnum forest, according to tentative plans I have seen, may stretch across Varnum avenue and include the extensive pine plantings on the Lowell waterworks land, thus reaching the boulevard and the river at the reedy stretch we used to call the Chelmsford Flats. This extension would be logical, and it would bring the state forest to the back door of one of the historic landmarks of this neighborhood whose future has, with good reason, worried many of us in the past two decades—to the so-called Durkee house which was really John Webb's house, built in the wilderness by the Wiltshire man who gave Dracut its name about 1664. A residence for the superintendent of the Molly Varnum forest will be de rigeur. He need not live in the centre of his forest. Where could he be more conveniently and more comfortably parked than in the celebrated old house on Old Ferry road?

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*** HOME OF BENJAMIN PIERCE ***

This house is located at the corner of Chelmsford and Midland Streets.

When the signal of alarm was given April 19th, 1775, Benjamin Pierce was ploughing in a field. Hitching his team of steers to a stump, he took his gun and started for Concord on foot.

He served through the Revolutionary War, and afterward went to New Hampshire to live and was twice elected Governor of that State.

Mrs. Albert Weatherwood

Mrs Clarence Edwards

Miss Emily Wiggin

Mrs. Charles R. Talbot (Eleanor)

Mrs. Wm McDonald

Mrs Wm McDonald

Mrs. Albert Catherwood

Mrs. Blanche Gray

Mrs. George N. Upton - Regent - 1939-1941
Lt. Col. G. B. Carmich - Speaker - Supt. State School for Boys Portland Me.
Elizabeth E. Catherwood - 9 yrs old - Soloist
Mrs. Albert Catherwood, Program Chairman

1955- History Month Mayor John Janas - Lois Watt + Ella Leatherwood Regent

1955 History Month

Mayor John Janas - Signing History month Proclamation

Mrs. Chas. E. Watt, Flag chairman

Mrs. Albert Leatherwood, Regent